

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 ATHENS 02924 071811Z  
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W  
-----043045 071813Z /64

O R 071622Z APR 78  
FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5360  
INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA  
AMEMBASSY NICOSIA  
USMISSION USNATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L ATHENS 2924

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PEPR, GR, CY, TU, US  
SUBJ: MEETING WITH AVEROFF - CLARIFICATIONS ON EASTERN  
MEDITERRANEAN PROGRAM

REF: STATE 87921

1. THE AMBASSADOR CALLED ON DEFENSE MINISTER AVEROFF,  
IN HIS CAPACITY OF ACTING FOREIGN MINISTER, THE EVENING  
OF APRIL 6 IN ORDER TO PROVIDE HIM WITH OUR REACTION  
TO POINTS AVEROFF HAD RAISED DURING THEIR MEETINGS ON  
MARCH 31 AND APRIL 2.

2. THE AMBASSADOR REFERRED TO AVEROFF'S REQUEST  
THAT SOME KIND OF SECURITY ASSURANCES FOR GREECE BE  
INCLUDED IN THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE PRESIDENT'S  
DECISIONS (ATHENS 2686). HE SAID THAT LANGUAGE SIMILAR TO  
THAT CONTAINED IN THE APRIL 1976 EXCHANGE OF LETTERS  
BETWEEN SECRETARY KISSINGER AND FOREIGN MINISTER BITSIOS  
HAD BEEN INCORPORATED IN THE OPENING STATEMENT WHICH  
SECRETARY VANCE HAD JUST MADE BEFORE THE HOUSE INTERNA-  
TIONAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE IN WASHINGTON. HE THEN  
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READ TO AVEROFF THE LANGUAGE IN PARAS 19 AND 20 OF  
STATE 88830, WHICH WE HAD RECEIVED EARLIER BY TELEPHONE,  
AND LEFT A COPY OF THE TEXT WITH HIM. THE AMBASSADOR  
EMPHASIZED THAT WE BELIEVED THE SECRETARY'S STATEMENT  
BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE CARRIED EVERY BIT AS MUCH  
WEIGHT AS WOULD HAVE BEEN THE CASE HAD IT BEEN INCLUDED  
IN THE ANNOUNCEMENT.

3. THE AMBASSADOR THEN TURNED TO AVEROFF'S QUESTION CONCERNING U.S. EXPECTATIONS WITH RESPECT TO CYPRUS WHICH AVEROFF HAD RAISED WITH THE AMBASSADOR LAST SUNDAY (ATHENS 2701). HE GAVE OUR VIEWS ON THIS, DRAWING ON STATE 88090 GIVING THE POINTS WHICH COUNSELOR NIMETZ MADE ON APRIL 5 TO CYPRIOT AMBASSADOR DIMITRIOU. HE ADDED THAT, ALTHOUGH WE DO NOT HAVE THE DETAILS, WE BELIEVE THAT THE TURKISH SIDE IS PREPARED TO MAKE PROPOSALS THAT WILL BE BETTER THAN THOSE THEY HAVE MADE IN THE PAST AND WHICH WILL PROVIDE THE BASIS FOR NEGOTIATIONS. THE AMBASSADOR CONCLUDED THAT WHILE WE CANNOT SAY WHEN TO EXPECT THE PROPOSALS TO BE GIVEN TO UNSYG WALDHEIM, WE HAVE EVERY EXPECTATION THIS WILL BE DONE SOON.

4. AT THE MARCH 31 MEETING, THE GREEK SIDE HAD ASKED FOR A CLARIFICATION OF WHAT ADDITIONAL MILITARY SUPPLIES WOULD BECOME AVAILABLE TO TURKEY AS A RESULT OF THE LIFTING OF THE EMBARGO. THE AMBASSADOR DREW ON PARA 2 OF REFTTEL. HE THEN RESPONDED TO ANOTHER MARCH 31 QUESTION ON THE TERMS OF THE SECURITY SUPPORT ASSISTANCE LOAN TO TURKEY, DRAWING ON STATE 85786 (PARA 4) AND POINTING OUT THAT IT APPEARED THE TERMS WOULD BE LESS FAVORABLE THAN WHAT AMBASSADOR TZOUNIS HAD THOUGHT DURING OUR MARCH 31 MEETING.

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5. MINISTER AVEROFF THANKED THE AMBASSADOR FOR HIS PRESENTATION AND REITERATED THAT THE GREEK GOVERNMENT FACED A DIFFICULT SITUATION AS A RESULT OF OUR DECISIONS. HE EXPECTED THE GOG WOULD SOON HAVE TO ISSUE SOME KIND OF PUBLIC STATEMENT ON THE SUBJECT, BEYOND HIS BRIEF COMMENT ON APRIL 2, EXPECIALLY IN VIEW OF THE GROWING PRESSURES IN THE PRESS AND ELSEWHERE THAT IT DO SO. AVEROFF SAID THAT THE STATEMENT SECRETARY VANCE HAD MADE TO THE HIRC CONCERNING THE SECURITY SITUATION IN THE EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN WOULD BE USEFUL. HOWEVER, HE ALSO HOPED THE TURKISH PROPOSALS ON CYPRUS WOULD BE MADE QUICKLY. HE WANTED, HE SAID, TO REPEAT THE CONCERN HE HAD EXPRESSED PREVIOUSLY THAT, BECAUSE OF GREEK FEARS OF A TURKISH THREAT, IT WAS IMPORTANT THAT TURKEY NOT RECEIVE LARGE AMOUNTS OF ARMAMENTS WHICH COULD DISTURB THE MILITARY BALANCE.

6. AT THIS POINT, AVEROFF SAID HE HAD TO EXCUSE HIMSELF TO GO TO THE AIRPORT TO MEET PRIME MINISTER CARAMANLIS WHO WAS RETRUNING FROM HIS WEST EUROPEAN TRIP. HE AND THE AMBASSADOR THEN DEPARTED AND THE POLITICAL COUNSELOR, WHO HAD ACCOMPANIED THE AMBASSADOR,

REMAINED BEHIND TO CONTINUE THE DISCUSSION WITH  
MFA DIRECTOR GENERAL TZOUNIS (REPORTED BY SEPTTEL).  
MCCLOSKEY

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## Message Attributes

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**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
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